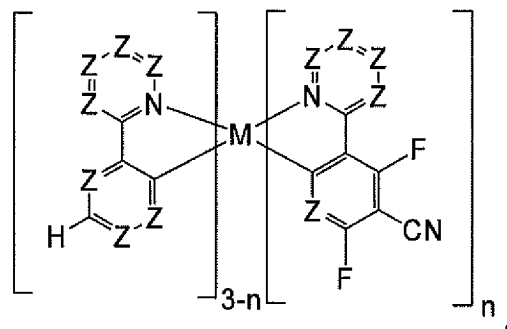
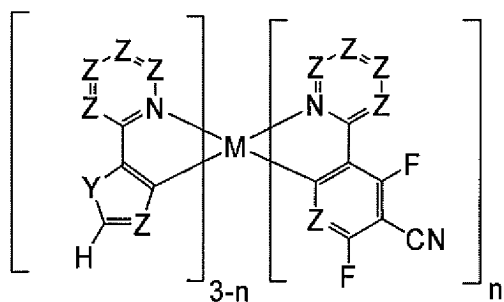


REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated December 24, 2008. After its entry, claims 1-4 and 16 are currently pending in this application and subject to examination. Claim 1 is amended to exclude compounds having the following formula:



while claim 2 is amended to exclude compounds having the following formula:

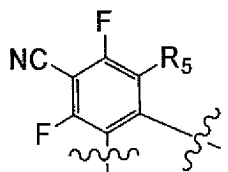


Support for this amendment is found in the present specification at page 6, line 21, to page 7, line 14, in Example 3 on page 13, and in Example 14 on page 14. Claims 1-4 are also amended to place them in better condition for allowance. No new matter is added.

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C § 102(e)

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) by U.S. Patent No. 6,916,554 B2 to Ma et al. (Ma). Applicants respectfully traverse. Ma teaches and claims compounds which require the following aryl ring substitution pattern:



Claims 1 and 2 are amended to exclude compounds having this substitution pattern. Applicants submit that this amendment obviates this anticipation rejection and respectfully request its withdrawal.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-4 and 16 stand rejected as obvious over U.S. Patent App. Pub. No. 2001/0019782 A1 to Igarashi et al. (Igarishi) as evidenced by U.S. Patent No. 5,484,922 to Moore et al. (Moore). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants maintain that claims 1-4 and 16 are non-obvious over the combined disclosures of Igarishi and Moore for the reasons of record.

In the May 1, 2009 Advisory Action, the Examiner asserted that Applicants have provided no evidence that an iridium complex substituted with a cyano group *para* to the iridium atom can possess significantly different properties to one that is substituted with a cyano group *meta* to the iridium atom. In this regard, please find attached a publication titled "Syntheses and Application of Novel Blue Phosphorescent Iridium Complexes to OLEDs"¹ by Motoyama et al. (Motoyama), which compares the emission properties of certain iridium phenylpyridine complexes substituted with a cyano group at different positions on the phenyl ring. Scheme 1 on page 664 of Motoyama discloses complexes 1, 2, and 3. In complex 2, the phenyl ring is *para*-substituted with a cyano group with respect to the iridium atom, while the phenyl rings of complexes 1 and 3 are *meta*-substituted with a cyano group with respect to the iridium atom. Figure 2b on page 665 of Motoyama compares the emission spectra of complexes 1, 2, and 3. As can clearly be seen, complex 2 (*para*-CN) exhibits a shorter PL wavelength (blue emission) compared to complexes 1 and 3 (*meta*-CN, green emission). As such, it is evident that the

¹ *Journal of Photopolymer Science and Technology*, Vol. 19, No. 5, pp. 663-667 (2006).

emission properties of iridium complexes can differ significantly depending on whether a cyano group is substituted *para* or *meta* to the iridium atom, irrespective of the similarity of the respective Hammett constants of these substituents. Therefore, contrary to the position of the Examiner, the skilled artisan would not expect that substituting the phenyl ring of complex 1-1 of Igarashi with a cyano group *para* to the iridium atom would result in complex that has similar properties to and is suitable for the same purpose as its *meta*-cyano substituted analog. In view of this, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-4 and 16 are non-obvious over the combined disclosures of Igarashi and Moore and request withdrawal of this rejection.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Payment in the amount of \$1300.00 to cover the fees required by 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17(a)(2) and 1.17(e) for a two-month extension of time and a Request for Continued Examination is submitted concurrently herewith. Should any other fees be required in connection with this response, authorization is hereby made to charge any fees due or outstanding, including any extension fees, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 03-2775, under Order No. 14113-00104-US, from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: May 26, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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